

Reporting Instrument

OMB Approval No.: 0985-0043
Expiration Date: January 31, 2021

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

**SECTION 704
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
For
STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
PROGRAM**

(Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended)

Part I

INSTRUMENT

**(To be completed by Designated State Units
And Statewide Independent Living Councils)**

Reporting Fiscal Year: 2022

State: id

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 35 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit (P.L. 105-220 Section 410 Workforce Investment Act). Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Rehabilitation Services Administration, LBJ Basement, Attention: Timothy Beatty, PCP Room 5057, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20202-2800 or email timothy.beatty@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1820-0606. Chapter 1, Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act.

SUBPART I - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Section A - Sources and Amounts of Funds and Resources

Sections 704(c) and 704(m)(3) and (4) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.35 and 364.36

Indicate amount received by the DSU as per each funding source. Enter "0" for none.

Item 1 - All Federal Funds Received

(A) Title VII, Ch. 1, Part B	\$338717.00
(B) Title VII, Ch. 1, Part C - For 723 states Only	\$0.00
(C) Title VII, Ch. 2	\$225000.00
(D) Other Federal Funds	\$99500.00
Subtotal - All Federal Funds	\$663217.00

Item 2 - Other Government Funds

(E) State Government Funds	\$236523.00
(F) Local Government Funds	\$0.00
Subtotal - State and Local Government Funds	\$236523.00

Item 3 - Private Resources

(G) Fees for Service (program income, etc.)	\$0.00
(H) Other resources	\$17312.00
Subtotal - Private Resources	\$17312.00

Item 4 - Total Income

Total income = (A)+(B)+(C)+(D)+(E)+(F)+(G)+(H)	\$917052.00
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Item 5 - Pass Through Funds

Amount of other government funds received as pass through funds to consumers (include funds, received on behalf of consumers, that are subsequently passed on to consumers, e.g., personal assistance services, representative payee funds, Medicaid funds, etc.)	\$0.00
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Item 6 - Net Operating Resources

Total Income (Section 4) <minus> amount paid out to Consumers (Section 5) = Net Operating Resources	\$917052.00
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Section B - Distribution of Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds

What Activities were Conducted with Part B Funds?	Expenditures of Part B Funds for Services by DSU Staff	Expenditures for Services Rendered By Grant or Contract
(1) Provided resources to the SILC to carry out its functions	\$0.00	\$97690.00
(2) Provided IL services to individuals with significant disabilities	\$0.00	\$81292.00

What Activities were Conducted with Part B Funds?	Expenditures of Part B Funds for Services by DSU Staff	Expenditures for Services Rendered By Grant or Contract
(3) Demonstrated ways to expand and improve IL services	\$0.00	\$0.00
(4) Supported the general operation of CILs that are in compliance with the standards and assurances set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 725 of the Act	\$0.00	\$155093.00
(5) Supported activities to increase capacity to develop approaches or systems for providing IL services	\$0.00	\$0.00
(6) Conducted studies and analyses, gathered information, developed model policies, and presented findings in order to enhance IL services	\$0.00	\$0.00
(7) Provided training regarding the IL philosophy	\$0.00	\$0.00
(8) Provided outreach to unserved or underserved populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$0.00	\$334075.00

Section C - Grants or Contracts Used to Distribute Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds

Sections 704(f) and 713 of the Act; 34 CFR 364.43, and 34 CFR 365 Subpart C

Enter the requested information for all DSU grants or contracts, funded at least in part by Part B funds, in the chart below. If a column is not applicable to a particular grant or contract, enter "N/A." If there were no non-Part B funds provided to this grantee or contractor for the purpose listed, enter "\$0" in that column. Add more rows as necessary.

Name of Grantee or Contractor	Use of Funds (based on the activities listed in Subpart I, Section B)	Amount of Part B Funds	Amount of Non-Part B Funds	Consumer Eligibility Determined By DSU or Provider	CSRs Kept With DSU or Provider
Idaho SILC	Res Plan systemic underserved outreach education	\$97690.00	\$226210.00	N/A	N/A
DAC-NW	Statewide education outreach resource development	\$16219.00	\$1882.00	N/A	N/A
LINC	General CIL operations	\$77905.00	\$8656.00	N/A	N/A
LIFE	General CIL operations	\$60969.00	\$6774.00	N/A	N/A
ICBVI	Direct IL services outreach education	\$81292.00	\$10313.00	N/A	N/A
Total Amount of Grants and Contracts		\$334075.00	\$253835.00		

Section D - Grants or Contracts for Purposes Other than Providing IL Services or For the General Operation of Centers

Section 713 of the Act; 34 CFR 365.1 and 34 CFR 365.20

Describe the objectives, activities and results for each Part B grant or contract awarded for purposes other than IL services or the general operation of centers.

SILC activities:

Note: Most in-person activities resumed, including more than half of our quarterly Council meetings, SPIL development and assessment public meetings, workshops, outreach and technical assistance. Some web-based meetings and activities have continued and provide a greater opportunity for statewide participation.

Goal 1: The Idaho IL Network will promote and advocate for the integration, inclusion and equity of all Idahoans with disabilities across communities, lifespan and cultures.

Objective 1.1: State and local emergency officials include individuals with disabilities and address their unique needs in emergency planning: mitigation, preparation, response and recovery.

1.1.a. Continue and increase participation with emergency management groups and in emergency activities that lead to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in all stages of emergency/disaster: Increase the number of people with disabilities involved with emergency planning by 25% annually. Baseline: 9 people - Survey participants quarterly, requesting information about the value of participation, barriers addressed, successes and lessons learned.

1.1.b. Educate and support Idahoans with disabilities in making personal emergency plans and the importance of local involvement in planning. Collect and evaluate surveys from 60% of people trained in Emergency Preparedness, demonstrating that they have or plan to complete a personal emergency plan; and would like to connect to statewide or local emergency planning.

Benchmark(s) - Met

Objective 1.2.: The IL Network will represent the voice of individuals with disabilities in improving the availability of housing, transportation, health care and community access.

Benchmarks/Indicators: For each year of the Plan, staff from each Center, the SILC and ICBVI will participate in a minimum of three boards, councils or policy workgroups addressing barriers to inclusion of people with disabilities in their community. Survey will request information about barriers addressed, successes and lessons learned. Annually, 25% of the surveys will indicate that barriers were reduced, or access was improved through advocacy/education efforts.

Benchmark(s) - Met

Objective 1.3.: The Idaho SILC, the Network of Centers, ICBVI, and the DSE will promote financial independence, including ABLE and other savings programs, and health care options, including the Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities program, by providing information and education to Idahoans with disabilities, service providers and community organizations.

Benchmarks/Indicators: Collect and evaluate surveys from 40% of people trained or provided individual technical assistance in areas of financial independence, demonstrating 20% of those surveyed have or plan to take additional steps furthering their financial independence.

Benchmark(s) - Met

Goal 2: The Idaho IL Network will work to strengthen effective Network operations that are adequately funded and increases capacity.

Objective - 2.1: Years 1 and 2: Address Subchapter Part C funding inequities, Years 1 and 2
Note: Objective 2.2 Years 1-3 is the first phase of what will likely go into the 2024 -2026 SPIL and possibly beyond in a different form, dependent on Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as

amended.

Benchmarks/Indicators: The CIL Directors will meet at least quarterly over the next three years to determine and agree upon Subchapter C funding formula for Idaho. The Directors will provide an annual written progress report to their boards and the SILC due October 31, 2022, and October 31, 2023.

Benchmark(s) - Met

Objective - 2.2: Year 3: Address Subchapter Part C funding inequities Note: Objective 2.2 Years 1-3 is the first phase of what will likely go into the 2024 -2026 SPIL and possibly beyond in a different form, dependent on Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Benchmark - Met in advance

Objective 2.3: The three Idaho Centers: Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC), LIFE, A Center for Independent Living and Disability Action Center-Northwest (DAC-NW) and the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI) will collaborate and work to identify other resource development options to enhance providing independent living services to the citizens of Idaho.

Benchmarks/Indicators: Agencies will meet at least once per quarter for all three years resulting in one new funding stream annually for a minimum on one agency.

Benchmark - Met

Goal 3: Idahoans with disabilities receive the community-based supports they need to live in their community of choice with greater independence.

Objective 3.1: Provide Independent Living services to people with disabilities to increase community access in rural areas and/or unserved and underserved populations identified in section 3.2.

Benchmarks/Indicators: Each Center and ICBVI will provide services in at least one unserved/underserved area and/or to at least one member of an identified population (may be living in an urban area), per quarter demonstrating greater access, inclusion, independence and/or peer connections in previously unserved/underserved communities.

Benchmark - Met

Objective 3.2: The Idaho SILC, Network of Centers and ICBVI will expand cultural competence by participating in events, listening and learning about community specific concerns/issues, to/with unserved/underserved populations. See SPIL Section 3.2 definitions.

Benchmarks/Indicators: Each Center, the SILC and ICBVI will participate in a minimum of two events annually held by locally identified marginalized communities. Through the survey, staff will share community visited, what they learned, community strengths, how their perspective may have changed and how they might better serve the community visited. Annually, 10% of the surveys will indicate lasting connections were made with the potential to serve, otherwise unserved populations.

Benchmark - Met

Objective 3.3: Increase demonstrable community connections by the number of, and participation in, community cross disability peer to peer mentoring and learning groups.

Benchmarks/Indicators: Each Center and ICBVI will stand up and support at least one peer to peer or IL learning (workshop) opportunity monthly either in-person or via web-based technology. The Centers and ICBVI will provide surveys for completion after meetings/workshops with the goal of 50% of participants completing a survey and at least 40% of those indicating they learned something new about Independent Living, disability issues and/or made meaningful peer connections.

Benchmark - Partially met. Organizations are exploring better methods to demonstrate outcomes, including observation and anecdote.

Section E - Monitoring Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B Funds

34 CFR 80.40(a)

Provide a summary of the program or fiscal review, evaluation and monitoring conducted by the state of any of the grantees/contractors receiving Part B funds during the reporting year.

The SILC Executive Director (E.D.) and fiscal specialist review all accounts weekly. Further, the SILC financial specialist works closely with the DSE, the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR), fiscal specialist who is assigned to our grants to ensure accurate and timely processing of SILC activities. The SILC has an internal accounting process through required state tracking systems.

The Idaho SILC, the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), LINC, LIFE and DAC- NW forward a detailed invoice/billing to the DSE for evaluation of expenses prior to reimbursement to ensure that expenses are directly related to Title VII, Part B. The process for the SILC and ICBVI differs somewhat from the process followed by the CILs. As state agencies/entities, SILC and ICBVI use the state financial accounting systems for billing and reimbursement from the DSE.

IDVR/DSE also has an MOU with the SILC: IDVR provides \$99,500 in Innovation and Expansion (I&E) funds to support the SILC fiscal specialist and office management. The fiscal specialist is well versed in GAAP and state accounting MIS. The fiscal specialist is housed in the Idaho SILC office and is an employee of the Idaho SILC.

The following explanation applies to both Section 2. Distribution of Title VII... and Section 3. Grants or Contracts Used to Distribute.

The PPR for FFY 2022 has expenditures from two grants - 2101IDILSG and 2201IDILSG. The amounts reported in FFY22 for Section 2 and 3 do not agree with the NOA for grant 2201IDILSG. This occurs because IDVR met the match requirement for the grant 2101IDILSG in the first Federal year (FFY21) of the award and has carry-over that IDVR expended in FFY22. Distributed funds do not match the funds received because IDVR expends funds prior to seeking reimbursement so expenditures (distributions) always equal or exceed the funds received.

IDVR (the DSE) involves SILC and the CILs and other interested parties in producing the SPIL which defines the percentages of the IL grants that the SILC and the CILs will receive. IDVR enters agreements with dollar amounts assigned so that each group knows the exact amount that they will receive from the grant. IDVR has made it clear that we meet match in the beginning of a grant so we will always have carry-over, if needed, to use the grant funds. In FFY21 and FFY22 the original awards did not get fully spent within the original grant years but IDVR communicated with SILC and CILs to continue using their assigned FFY21 funds within the IL21 carry-over period of performance. IDVR also let SILC and CILs know to use their FFY22 funds through the extended IL22 carry-over year.

The SILC and CILs do not have administrative issues that caused underspending they simply needed more time to effectively use the grants.

The SILC is subject to an annual audit which is conducted by an external CPA as required by state law. Idaho SILC's SFY 2017 - 2021 audits reported no findings. 2022 audit is pending with no anticipated issues or findings.

Section F - Administrative Support Services and Staffing

Section 704(c)(2) and 704 (m)(2) and (4) of the Act; CFR 364.22(a)(2) and 34 CFR 364.31

Item 1 - Administrative Support Services

Describe any administrative support services, including staffing, provided by the DSU to the Part B Program.

Grant monitoring and reimbursement occur through state required tracking systems. The DSE does not provide day-to-day operational support to any Part B recipients.

The SILC fiscal specialist is paid through I&E funds and serves under the direction of the SILC ED. The DSE has no authority over any SILC staff related to hiring/retaining SILC employees.

The DSE did not charge the 5% fee allowed under the grant in FFY2022.

Item 2 - Staffing

Enter requested staff information for the DSU and service providers listed in Section C, above (excluding Part C funded CILs)

Type of Staff	Total Number of FTEs	FTEs filled by Individuals with Disabilities
Decision-Making Staff	2	2
Other Staff	2	1

Section G - For Section 723 States ONLY

Section 723 of the Act, 34 CFR Part 366, Subpart D

Item 2 - Administrative Support Services

Section 704(c)(2) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.22(a)(2)

Item 3 - Monitoring and Onsite Compliance Reviews

Section 723(g), (h), and (i); 34 CFR 366.38, 366.40 - 46

Item 4 - Updates or Issues

SUBPART II - NUMBER AND TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES RECEIVING SERVICES

Section 704(m)(4) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.53

In this section, provide data from all service providers (DSU, grantees, contractors) who received Part B funds and who were listed in Subpart I, Section C of this report, except for the centers that receive Part C funds. Part C centers will provide this data themselves on their annual 704 Reports, Part II.

Section A - Number of Consumers Served During the Reporting Year

Include Consumer Service Records (CSRs) for all consumers served during the year.

	# of CSRs
(1) Enter the number of active CSRs carried over from September 30 of the preceding reporting year	39
(2) Enter the number of CSRs started since October 1 of the reporting year	30
(3) Add lines (1) and (2) to get the <i>total number of consumers served</i>	69

Section B - Number of CSRs Closed by September 30 of the Reporting Year

Include the number of consumer records closed out of the active CSR files during the reporting year because the individual has

	# of CSRs
(1) Moved	1
(2) Withdrawn	0
(3) Died	1
(4) Complete Goals	8
(5) Other	1
(6) Add lines (1) + (2) + (3) + (4) + (5) to get <i>total CSRs closed</i>	11

Section C - Number of CSRs Active on September 30 of the Reporting Year

Indicate the number of CSRs active on September 30th of the reporting year.

	# of CSRs
Section A(3) <minus> Section (B)(6) = Section C	58

Section D - IL Plans and Waivers

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Number of consumers who signed a waiver	61
(2) Number of consumers with whom an ILP was developed	8
(3) <i>Total number of consumers served during the reporting year</i>	69

Section E - Age

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Under 5 years old	0
(2) Ages 5 - 19	6
(3) Ages 20 - 24	2
(4) Ages 25 - 59	61
(5) Age 60 and Older	0
(6) Age unavailable	0
(7) <i>Total number of consumers served by age</i>	69

Section F - Sex

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Number of Females served	42
(2) Number of Males served	27
(3) <i>Total number of consumers served by sex</i>	69

Section G - Race And Ethnicity

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below. ***Each consumer may be counted under ONLY ONE of the following categories in the 704 Report, even if the consumer reported more than one race and/or Hispanic/Latino ethnicity).***

**This section reflects a new OMB directive.
Please refer to the Instructions before completing.**

	# of Consumers
(1) American Indian or Alaska Native	0
(2) Asian	0
(3) Black or African American	1
(4) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1
(5) White	60
(6) Hispanic/Latino of any race or Hispanic/Latino only	4
(7) Two or more races	0
(8) Race and ethnicity unknown	3
(9) <i>Total number of consumers served by race/ethnicity</i>	69

Section H - Disability

Indicate the number of consumers in each category below.

	# of Consumers
(1) Cognitive	0
(2) Mental/Emotional	0
(3) Physical	0
(4) Hearing	0

	# of Consumers
(5) Vision	69
(6) Multiple Disabilities	0
(7) Other	0
(8) <i>Total number of consumers served by by disability</i>	69

SUBPART III - INDIVIDUAL SERVICES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FUNDED THROUGH TITLE VII, CHAPTER 1, PART B FUNDS

Sections 13 and 704(m)(4); 34 CFR 364.53; Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) Performance Measures

Subpart III contains new data requests. Please refer to the Instructions before completing.

Section A - Individual Services and Achievements

For the reporting year, indicate in the chart below how many consumers requested and received each of the following IL services. Include all consumers who were provided services during the reporting year through Part B funds, either directly by DSU staff or via grants or contracts with other providers. Do not include consumers who were served by any centers that received Part C funds during the reporting year.

Services	Consumers Requesting Services	Consumers Receiving Services
Advocacy/Legal Services	1	1
Assistive Technology	17	12
Children's Services	0	0
Communication Services	9	6
Counseling and related services	4	2
Family Services	0	0
Housing, Home Modification, and Shelter Services	0	0
IL Skills Training and Life Skills Training	21	15
Information and Referral Services	16	13
Mental Restoration Services	0	0
Mobility training	15	10
Peer Counseling Services	1	1
Personal Assistance Services	0	0
Physical Restoration Services	0	0
Preventive Services	0	0
Prostheses, Orthotics, and other appliances	0	0
Recreational Services	0	0
Rehabilitation Technology Services	14	9
Therapeutic Treatment	0	0
Transportation Services	2	1
Youth/Transition Services	0	0
Vocational Services	0	0
Other	2	1
Totals	102	71

Section B - Increased Independence and Community Integration

Item 1 - Goals Related to Increased Independence in a Significant Life Area

Indicate the number of consumers who set goals related to the following significant life areas, the number whose goals are still in progress, and the number who achieved their goals as a result of the provision of IL services.

Significant Life Area	Goals Set	Goals Achieved	In Progress
Self-Advocacy/Self-Empowerment	8	1	7
Communication	36	4	32
Mobility/Transportation	45	8	37
Community-Based Living	10	1	9
Educational	4	0	4
Vocational	0	0	0
Self-Care	17	4	13
Information Access/Technology	28	4	24
Personal Resource Management	6	1	5
Relocation from a Nursing Home or Institution to Community-Based Living	0	0	0
Community/Social Participation	4	1	3
Other	17	4	13
Totals	175	28	147

Item 2 - Improved Access To Transportation, Health Care and Assistive Technology

(A) Table

In column one, indicate the number of consumers who required access to previously unavailable transportation, health care services, or assistive technology during the reporting year. Of the consumers listed in column one, indicate in column two, the number of consumers who, as a result of the provision of IL services (including the four core services), achieved access to previously unavailable transportation, health care services, or assistive technology during the reporting year. In column three, list the number of consumers whose access to transportation, health care services or assistive technology is still in progress at the end of the reporting year.

Areas	# of Consumers Requiring Access	# of Consumers Achieving Access	# of Consumers Whose Access is in Progress
(A) Transportation	2	1	1
(B) Health Care Services	1	1	0
(C) Assistive Technology	6	6	0

Note: For most IL services, a consumer's access to previously unavailable transportation, health care and assistive technology is documented through his or her CSR. In some instances, consumers may achieve an outcome solely through information and referral (I&R) services. To document these instances as successful outcomes, providers are not required to create CSRs for these consumers but must be able to document that follow-up contacts with these consumers showed access to previously unavailable transportation, health care and assistive technology.

(B) I&R Information

To inform ACL how many service providers engage in I&R follow-up contacts regarding access to transportation, health care services or assistive technology, please indicate the following:

The service provider did **X** / did not ____ engage in follow-up contacts with I & R recipients to document access gained to previously unavailable transportation, health care or assistive technology.

Section C - Additional Information Concerning Individual Services or Achievements

Please provide any additional description or explanation concerning individual services or achievements reported in subpart III, including outstanding success stories and/or major obstacles encountered.

During FFY 2022, the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI) provided a wide array of services throughout the state of Idaho to visually impaired clients, as well as offering information and resources to the general public. Rehabilitation Teachers provided blindness skills training in the areas of Orientation and Mobility, Activities of Daily Living, Braille instruction, and facilitation of assistive technology, among other training areas. ICBVI was also able to provide financial assistance using Part B funds to clients with fiscal needs in purchasing aids and appliances to assist them in increasing or maintaining their independence.

Rehabilitation Teachers continue to think outside of the box in regard to still having to deal with COVID and geographic/rural issues. Teachers provide services and instruction in multiple facets including face to face meetings, as well as utilizing Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Facetime, email, and phones to work with clients. We continue to utilize training videos, filmed by our ICBVI staff, mostly during the height of COVID but continue adding more videos to our external website for staff, clients and others to use.

ICBVI's primary obstacle is funding. The amount of Part B funding received by our agency does not cover the expenses of the program. Luckily, we are able to utilize other funding resources to cover these costs including social security reimbursements, in-kind donations and cash donations, but these funds are not permanent and may not be available from year to year.

One success story of a client that continues to receive services and work toward maximizing her independence is as follows. The name of the individual has been changed for confidentiality reasons.

Christine Doe is a 33-year-old female who has been diagnosed with several significant impairments. She has been diagnosed as being legally blind due to Septo-Optic Dysplasia. Christine has also been diagnosed as having epilepsy, with significant seizures and tremors. These seizures are very debilitating causing tonic-clonic seizures along with severe and constant tremors in her hands. She has also been diagnosed with Diabetes Insipidus which causes her sodium levels to get very low. Due to these impairments Christine has chosen not to participate in the VR program but has instead sought services through the IL program.

Due to her tremors and vision loss, Christine has difficulties with mobility, operating her laptop, reading Braille, accessing written and electronic information, and performing activities of daily living. Christine and ICBVI's Twin Falls Rehabilitation Teacher discussed the many struggles she was having. The RT assessed these difficulties and together they identified and prioritized goals to address these areas of need.

As described above, some of the areas noted were in the areas of technology and communication. Christine had a landline, was unable to afford a cellphone and if owned would not know how to operate

one independently. She was also limited in her ability to take notes, make lists, gather information from the internet and perform many other tasks that so many of us take for granted. This caused her to feel very isolated, compromised her safety, and was a strong reason why her independence was compromised. Christine was breaking many items like her Victor Reader, magnification devices, phones and other aids and appliances due to her tremors and seizures by dropping those items as well as breaking the charging ports on rechargeable aides such as her Victor Reader.

The RT collaborated with other ICBVI staff members and researched what type of technology would be best to assist her. It was determined that an iPhone SE would support her in performing many of the tasks she was either unable to do or was having difficulty performing. Along with a magnetic wireless charging pad, a very specific type of phone case and screen protectors, the RT determined that this aide would be the best choice given Christine's needs and issues. These items were purchased using Part B funding.

Christine received extensive training with the iPhone and different apps and is now able to perform many of the tasks she was unable to previously, which has increased her independence greatly in this area. She was also having difficulty accessing information such as the internet, talking books, taking notes, and performing other related tasks that she was now able to do with Siri, email, Talking Book services, Seeing AI and Voiceover. Christine has also been able to save money by canceling a monthly book subscription service she was using by now being able to access the Talking Book program and BARD at no cost. She has also been able to cancel her landline service and utilize those funds toward an affordable cell phone/data plan.

Another area of need noted was with orientation and mobility (O&M). Christine had received some O&M training while attending high school, but had forgotten much of her previous instruction. She has worked with her RT who has provided some "refresher" O&M training as well as a cane and tip, also purchased with Part B funds. This allows Christine to get around her neighborhood and areas in the community more independently, though she is usually with a caregiver or family and friends when she is out in public.

Christine was familiar with some ADL techniques but has learned and continues to participate in some training in this area with her RT. She is more independent with her ADL skills and has been provided some aides such as a talking food thermometer, pen friend, talking alarm clock, and bump dots which the RT assisted in marking Christine's appliances and other items. All purchased with Part B funds.

Christine had a Braille which she was able to use but had recently broken. A jumbo Braille was provided which has aided the client greatly. The larger size Braille has helped in terms of ease by being able to read with her tremors.

Lastly, Christine and her RT will continue working on her laptop and learning assistive technology to make her more proficient and independent in this area, as well as continued training in the areas of O&M and ADL.

The RT has stated that Christine has significantly increased her overall independence as well as her self-confidence. Christine will continue to participate in independent living skills training and continue to work toward achieving her IL goals in FFY 2023.

SUBPART IV - COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATION

Section 704(i), (l), and (m)(4) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.26, 364.27, and 364.32

Section A - Community Activities

Item 1 - Community Activities Table

In the table below, summarize the community activities involving the DSU, SILC and CILs in the Statewide Network of Centers (excluding Part C fund recipients) during the reporting year. For each activity, identify the primary disability issue(s) addressed as well as the type of activity conducted. Indicate the entity(ies) primarily involved and the time spent. Describe the primary objective(s) and outcome(s) for each activity. Add more rows as necessary.

Subpart IV contains new data requests. Please refer to the Instructions before completing.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Community Living	One on one and group communication	ICBVI	92.00	Provide education and outreach	Educate K-12 teachers, parents, students and providers regarding blind and visually impaired issues to expand expectations for those with visual impairments, increasing better outcomes for students as they advance from their secondary education.
Independent Living	One on one and group facilitation	ICBVI	53.00	Provide education, outreach and partnering to medical providers.	Educated physicians, hospital and clinic staff throughout the state of Idaho in regards to ICBVI services and recommendations on working with individuals with visual impairments.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Independent Living	Health Fairs	ICBVI	62.00	Provide education, outreach and developed partnerships with local residents, professionals, potential clients, agencies and organizations.	Increased individual awareness and referrals to the Independent Living program. Provided information and resources to the public, and networked with other service providers in local communities.
Emergency Planning	Community systems and technical assistance	SILC	70.00	Disability inclusion is built into all aspects of emergency management.	Hosted 12 Idaho Inclusive Emergency Coalition meetings. Large focus has been on unhoused or precariously housed individuals with disabilities Co-sponsored a movie night for the Hispanic community and migrant population distributed 75 emergency bags
Healthcare Access	Health care settings and systems	SILC	60.00	Improve health access and equity, reaching underserved communities, including migrant farmworkers and people who are unhoused.	Hosted 10 statewide health equity meetings that include people with disabilities, CIL staff, emergency managers, public health officials, care and housing providers and policy makers.
Community Access	Transportation	ICBVI	46.00	ICBVI staff sit on a variety of public transportation committees in different regions throughout the state advocating for better public transportation access.	Work with civic leaders and other disability leaders to bring awareness and solutions of accessibility issues to improve access for public transportation services.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Housing Access	Community systems	SILC	245.00	Retain and increase affordable accessible housing options addressing lack of housing and increasing evictions.	Increase public awareness about the lack of affordable, accessible housing due to population growth, lost wages, substantial increase in property values and rents increases, reduced HCBS settings closure of 98 residential assisted living facilities.
Independent Living	Financial Planning	SILC	468.00	Provide information and Technical Assistance regarding how to open ABLE accounts in other IRS approved state programs. Note: Idaho does not have an ABLE savings program.	Increased savings access through eight workshops to 104 people and provided technical assistance (TA) to 215 people with disabilities or their families/guardians in opening accounts. Follow-up indicates the majority opened an account.
Independent Living	IL Conference	CILs	190.00	Provide education, outreach and developed partnerships with tribal members, professionals, potential consumers, agencies and organizations.	17 presentations over a two day event, 85 participants, at least one documented connection of a young person that was helped to connect with peers and to become more involved in systems advocacy.
Community Access	ADA, Fair Housing Act (FHA) and Rehab Act	SILC, ICBVI	25.50	Increase/improve community access to governmental systems and community infrastructure.	Brought awareness of city, county, state and federal accessibility issues including web access for those with disabilities.

Issue Area	Activity Type	Primary Entity	Hours Spent	Objective(s)	Outcome(s)
Emergency Preparation	Emergency Preparation Workshops and Technical Assistance (TA)	SILC	208.00	Increase personal awareness, understanding and preparation for people with disabilities in all phases of disaster.	Presented to 268 people on developing personal preparedness plans. Participants are better prepared for a personal or community wide emergency or disaster.

Item 2 - Description of Community Activities

For the community activities mentioned above, provide any additional details such as the role of the DSU, SILC, CIL, and/or consumers, names of any partner organizations and further descriptions of the specific activities, services and benefits.

The SILC works with and hosts workgroups addressing increased loss of affordable accessible housing and evictions across settings, including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living, rental housing and groups homes. Workgroups include the Intermountain Fair Housing Council, Idaho Housing and Finance Association, Public Health, the state Protection and Advocacy system, the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Idaho Hospital Association and many others local community organizations. The SILC and our partners continue to engage in housing issues made worse during the pandemic. There has been a marked increase in people being evicted from skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and Residential Assisted Living Facilities (RALFs). During an eleven month period in 2022, 205 Medicaid beds were lost in RALFs as 14 of them closed, all but one of their own volition. The SILC and CILs are working to help families and individuals address these issues and access assistance from the appropriate organizations.

The Idaho Inclusive Emergency Coalition continues to meet monthly via Zoom platform. The group includes FEMA Region X Disability Integration Specialist, local emergency managers, public health, Center staff and community members with disabilities. The IIEC hosts subcommittee meetings as issues of need are identified, if not addressed in other forums. Use of these subcommittees have proven invaluable as they quickly set goals and respond to identified needs, including sustainable plain language materials in Spanish and English, and projects. Engagement is increased substantially and is made up of a majority of whom have disabilities.

The Health Equity Coalition hosted as a subcommittee of the SILC meets monthly via Zoom. The group includes several council members, public health, the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the DD council and other community partners. The group works to identify and address health disparities across our state.

Section B - Working Relationships Among Various Entities

Describe DSU and SILC activities to maximize the cooperation, coordination, and working relationships among the independent living program, the SILC, and CILs; and the DSU, other state agencies represented on the SILC, other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues, and other public and private entities. Describe the expected or actual outcomes of these activities.

- A DVR regional manager represents the DSE as an ex-officio member. The DSE representative is an active member on the assessment and planning committee. His participation on the committee and planning activities helped the team enhance quarterly council member surveys, the effectiveness of the statewide assessment and on-going effectiveness of the SPIL.
- The SILC Program Specialist serves as a voting member of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).
- The Center Director from Life, A Center for Independent Living and the IL manager, also from LIFE, an IL specialist from DAC-NW serve on the SILC.
- The IL coordinator from the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI) is an ex-officio member of the SILC.
- Center Directors from DAC-NW and LINC frequently attend SILC meetings as invited guests.
- A clinician from the Department of Health and Welfare, Family and Children's crisis services serves on the SILC as an ex-officio member.
- The Outreach and Education Specialist from the Idaho Commission on Aging ICOA serves as ex-officio Council member.

Exchanges between the organizations and constituents named above, provide opportunities to learn more about what each organization does and how we may best support each other, thereby improving services and opportunities to our constituents. All the above-mentioned administrators and directors participate in statewide assessment planning as well as SPIL planning meetings.

Other administrators from the Department of Health and Welfare/Medicaid programs and the Administrator of ICBVI programs attend Council meetings as guests as their availability allows. Such participation provides DHW and other agency administrators with information and perspectives that they might not otherwise have in order to enhance community living for people with disabilities.

The IDVR Administrator serves on the Idaho Workforce Development Council (WDC) as a voting member as required under WIOA. Such involvement ensures that employment of people with disabilities is considered beneficial for business and industry.

The Directors or other agency staff of the above-named organizations are active members in Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities (CID) - a statewide organization that sponsors Fred Riggers - Disability Awareness Day at the Idaho State Capitol. This event provides an introduction for many people with disabilities and their families to the legislative process and the statehouse. It also provides an opportunity for legislators to see what we're doing and to meet the people impacted by the advancement (or loss) of services and supports in the community. The CID works throughout the year to systemically improve services for people with disabilities, develop position statements and educate policy makers. The SILC E.D. serves on the CID executive board.

The exponential loss of affordable and accessible housing in recent years disproportionately impacts people with disabilities, families and care providers (workforce) across our state. The SILC E.D., through the direction of the Council and our priorities, works on housing issues across Idaho on a nearly daily basis. The SILC E.D. serves on the governing board for the Intermountain Fair Housing Council (IFHC). The SILC E.D. and Program Specialist participate in bi-weekly Idaho Asset Building Network meetings working to address housing shortages across our state through positive, systemic change at the state and federal level. Such partnerships help us have a better understanding of housing needs, specific locations where there are housing shortages and to bring awareness about

areas of disability discrimination in housing. As mentioned previously, the housing crisis has ballooned due to a 15% increase in population in the last five years, increased property values, decreased building of affordable housing and the recent health emergency. The State's response through accessing Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds has improved, but is still difficult for people to access. We continue to address these shortfalls and help people with disabilities access these funds.

The SILC Program Specialist works extensively with ICBVI, the CILs, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, the FEMA Region X Regional Disability Integration Specialist and local emergency planners regarding emergency mitigation, planning and recovery. The Program Specialist coordinates the Idaho Inclusive Emergency Coalition (IIEC). The IIEC is made up of statewide representatives, the majority of whom have a disability, as well as representatives from the Red Cross and other volunteer organizations, County Emergency coordinators and Federal Emergency Management Agency staff. The group meets monthly to increase local participation in preparedness projects and activities. The Program Specialist also works with the above groups, providing training to ensure that the disability community is not forgotten in an emergency. Work within emergency preparedness builds relationships and inclusion in all aspects of emergency planning. It is through these relationships that we have been able to more quickly respond to issues related to the health emergency.

The SILC E.D. continues to serve on the State of Idaho Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SIDMAC). This gubernatorial appointed committee developed and continues to revise the state Crisis Standards of Care.

SUBPART V - STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

Section 705 of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21

Section A - Composition and Appointment

Item 1 - Current SILC Composition

In the chart below, provide the requested information for each SILC member. The category in which the member was appointed can be described, for example, as ex-officio state agency representative, other state agency representative, center representative, person with a disability not employed by a center or state agency, section 121 funded project director, parent of person with a disability, community advocate, other service provider, etc. Include current vacancies, along with the corresponding appointment category for each. Add more rows as necessary.

Name of SILC member	Employed by CIL, State Agency or Neither	Appointment Category	Voting or Non-Voting	Term Start Date	Term End Date
Shiloh Blackburn	Neither	Region VI person with a disabili	Voting	05/28/2022	05/28/2025
Candy Harris	Neither	Region IV person with a disabili	Voting	05/28/2020	05/28/2023
Erik Kimes	Neither	Region III person with a disab	Voting	12/11/2020	05/28/2023
Eric Peterson	Neither	Region II person with a disabili	Voting	03/10/2022	05/28/2025
Tara Marie Adams	Neither	Person with a disability at la	Voting	12/11/2020	05/28/2023
Sherri Boelter	CIL	CIL Rep Region I Disability Ac	Voting	05/28/2022	05/28/2025
Michael Lefevor	CIL	CIL Director Region VI	Voting	05/28/2022	05/28/2025
Brittany Shipley	Neither	Parent Advocate Region V	Voting	12/27/2021	05/28/2024
Brianna Tamayo	CIL	CIL Rep Region VII Life, A Cen	Voting	05/28/2022	05/28/2025
Steve Achabal	State Agency	Ex-Officio Comm for the Blind	Non-Voting	05/28/2021	05/28/2024
Alan Aamodt	State Agency	Ex-Officio DSE	Non-Voting	05/28/2021	05/28/2024
Erin Olsen	State Agency	Ex-Officio Comm on Aging	Non-Voting	04/07/2021	05/28/2024
Russ Salyards	State Agency	Ex-Officio	Non-Voting	05/28/2022	05/28/2025

Item 2 - SILC Composition Requirements

Please provide the information requested in the chart below. Include any current vacancies in a particular appointment category.

SILC Composition	# of SILC members
(A) How many members are on the SILC?	13
(B) How many members of the SILC are individuals with disabilities not employed by a state agency or a center for independent living?	5
(C) How many members of the SILC are voting members?	9
(D) How many of the voting members of the SILC are individuals with disabilities not employed by a state agency or a center for independent living?	5

Section B - SILC Membership Qualifications

Section 705(b)(4) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(c)

Item 1 - Statewide Representation

Describe how the SILC is composed of members who provide statewide representation.

The Idaho SILC follows the State Department of Health and Welfare boundaries. These boundaries divide Idaho's 44 counties into seven regions. Ideally, each region is represented on the SILC by at least one voting member with a disability who is not employed by a Center or the state. Additionally, two of the CILs are represented: Disability Action Center-Northwest (DAC- NW) to the north currently has one appointed staff member, an IL specialist; and from Life, A Center for Independent Living in Eastern Idaho a Center Director and the IL Program Manager serve on the SILC. Representation comes from mostly rural parts of the state and Idaho's most populous area, the Treasure Valley, which includes Caldwell, Nampa and Boise.

There are currently three at large seat openings from otherwise marginalized populations such as immigrant or Native American community member, young adult and underserved or veteran. We're in the process of filling one of those positions with a Native American community member and are awaiting Governor appointment. We have two recent applications for regional positions that are pending committee review, interview and vote of approval/disapproval in January for recommendation for appointment, including the background check.

Our appointment process in cooperation with the Governor's office has become more difficult and slow due to required and increasingly in-depth criminal background checks. We've appealed a recent denial of appointment twice to no avail, though the issue occurred many years ago and was in fact withheld. This is particularly frustrating as the person who was denied appointment is active in the disability community, well known and highly knowledgeable. Given that people with disabilities, particularly from communities of color disproportionately encounter law enforcement, the background checks have become an obstacle to ensuring that we can maintain our statutory composition. The delays and denials for appointments are hitting especially hard this year as five long-term council members termed off in late May 2022. Given the difficulty, we've begun telling people that an in-depth background check is conducted and if they anticipate anything coming up, we'd appreciate knowing in advance so we can support them through the process. We do not discourage people from applying. However, some have opted out once learning of the process involved.

The SILC requires all members be at least 18 years of age. There is no age requirement for Community members who participate in the SILC ad hoc committees or emergency exercises.

Item 2 - Broad Range of Individuals with Disabilities from Diverse Backgrounds

Describe how the SILC members represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds.

The Idaho SILC is comprised of people across the disability spectrum, including people from the Deaf community; individuals who are blind; people with mental illness, Traumatic Brain Injury, intellectual and developmental disabilities, rare illness and people with ambulatory disabilities or combinations of the afore mentioned. We have representatives from the LGBTQA+ community and are awaiting Governor appointment of a member of the Native American community. We are actively seeking two representatives from an unserved/underserved community or veteran, for regional or at large positions as well as young adults.

The Idaho Inclusive Emergency Coalition (IIEC) and the Health Equity Coalition are a broadly inclusive SILC ad hoc committee that include people from across the state and disability spectrum. Members include some Council members, advocates from other state and community organizations, such as the Department of Health and Welfare, Caregivers Alliance, FEMA, representatives from state and local public health, and emergency managers.

We continue to make inroads with immigrant populations and the Tribes. This process is slow and on-going.

Above indicates nine voting members, five of whom are people with disabilities who do not work for a CIL or the state. The last three years have taken a toll on membership as several members resigned their appointments for personal reasons and five others termed off in May 2022. The Council may also elect to add other at-large seats to ensure cross disability representation and majority. Specific at-large seats are not added into our by-laws. The Council values the input of new members, especially young adults and those from communities otherwise not well represented.

Item 3 - Knowledgeable about IL

Describe how SILC members are knowledgeable about centers for independent living and independent living services.

Council applicants are initially referred for SILC membership through the Centers or other disability organizations and stakeholder groups. Most frequently, applicants have received services from a CIL or other disability organization which promotes disability rights, or they may have participated in an IL event.

Applications include a resume (or similar document explaining interest and experience). Upon review, the membership committee recommends an interview to be conducted by the membership chair(s) to learn more about the applicant's experience and understanding of IL. Upon final review by the committee, a recommendation is made to the full Council. Upon successful Council approval, applicants complete paperwork for a Gubernatorial appointment. SILC staff submit the appointment form to the Governor's office. Upon successful completion of the background check, applicants are appointed and swear an oath of service to the state of Idaho.

New Council members are provided with a Council orientation including an in-depth workshop on general and Idaho specific disability and Independent Living history, and an introduction into IL philosophy within the context of the SILC. These introductory workshops are provided by members of the executive committee and SILC staff. Public notice is provided for the orientation and current members and the public are invited to participate.

During our two-day Council meetings (twice a year) most of day two is dedicated to training on topics requested by Council members. In 2021 the executive committee decided that training should focus on the CILs and our ex-officio agency partners. As such, trainers share information about the history of their organizations and how they serve people with disabilities. Additional training topics included: introduction to the resources, training and services available through the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living, building relationships and working together, understanding SILC committees, roles and responsibility, Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program, and sections of the SILC member handbook. Most of these trainings are provided by staff from outside agencies and CIL/SILC staff who are subject matter experts.

Council members are encouraged and supported to provide training during Council meetings and to provide workshops at area conferences and events, including national, state, regional IL and other conferences.

Through access to virtual conferences, more Council members were able to participate in national and regional conferences and events, thus increasing their understanding of IL. The SILC generally sends 3-10 Council members to local, state and national training as resources allow. In 2022, more than 10 Council members participated in at least five local, state, regional and national conferences, thus expanding their knowledge of IL. Further, SILC staff and the executive committee share training opportunities available on-line through HHS, ACL, ILRU and APRIL. Council members keep a log of completed training in their Council binders and report activity in quarterly surveys.

Section C - SILC Staffing and Support

Item 1 - SILC Staff

Please provide the name and contact information for the SILC executive director. Indicate the number and titles of any other SILC staff, if applicable. Also indicate whether any SILC staff is also a state agency employee.

Mel Leviton, FTE Executive Director 120 South Cole Road Boise, Idaho 83709 208.334.3800
mel.leviton@silc.idaho.gov

One Administrative Assistant, FTE One Program Specialist/Planner, FTE One Financial Specialist, FTE

Total of four (4) employees

The Idaho SILC is a governmental entity, yet not a state agency. The SILC does not operate from within another state agency or organization. The Idaho SILC is not a 501c3. Idaho SILC staff are state employees, receiving state benefits such as health insurance, public retirement, vacation and sick leave. SILC staff, except for the executive director (E.D.), are protected by state employee human resources department guidelines. The E.D. serves at the will of the Council with no such assurances for employment or opportunity for interdepartmental transfer.

Item 2 - SILC Support

Describe the administrative support services provided by the DSU, if any.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) - the DSE - disburses Title 7, Part B funds on a reimbursement basis. IDVR reviews invoices submitted for reimbursement. IDVR staff respond to questions or concerns related to allowable expenses and accounting questions.

The IDVR administrator provides access to the PPR for the DSE fiscal staff and Idaho Commission for the Blind and Vision Impaired staff to enter the appropriate sections of the PPR. IDVR fiscal staff enters DSE data prior to submission. The IDVR administrator reviews the PPR prior to submission.

Beginning in 2020 and continuing through the 2021-2023 SPIL, the DSE does not charge the 5% administrative fee.

Section D - SILC Duties

Section 705(c); 34 CFR 364.21(g)

Item 1 - SILC Duties

Provide a summary of SILC activities conducted during the reporting year related to the SILC's duties listed below:

(A) State Plan Development

Describe any activities related to the joint development of the state plan. Include any activities in preparation for developing the state plan, such as needs assessments, evaluations of consumer satisfaction, hearings and forums.

The three Idaho Centers, the Idaho SILC, ICBVI and the DSE, IDVR, began preliminary work on what we thought would be the 2024-26 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) in the fall of 2021. There was agreement that the SPIL should address the statewide needs of Idahoans across disabilities and lifespan; and that all partners would work toward greater participation in the upcoming statewide assessment planned for early 2022 lasting through September 2022. In June of 2021 the Idaho SILC executive committee reviewed the process for the statewide assessment, followed by a July review by the full SILC, including the three Center Directors, ICBVI and IDVR. The SPIL planning team was officially formed during the July Council meeting. It included the following: the three Center Directors, the Idaho SILC Chair, the SILC executive director, several other SILC members, and the SILC members representing the DSE and ICBVI. Over the course of the next five months, the team met multiple times and all meetings were posted in compliance with Idaho's public meeting law and held in accessible locations.

The Idaho State Independent Living Council (SILC) actively engages in statewide activities that assist in providing Idahoans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer-directed, cost-effective and community based. The Council often partners with national, state and local agencies, advocacy organizations and nonprofits to effect positive systems change.

Every three years, the Idaho SILC collaborates with the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to conduct a statewide needs assessment to collect input from constituents for review, revision and development of the three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

The core functions of the Idaho SILC are specific to both the federal mandates and Idaho Code providing the rationale behind the SPIL. The Council's SPIL planning committee began development of the most recent assessment in July 2021. The Idaho SILC conducted a statewide survey of the needs of people with disabilities January 25 - September 16, 2022. Surveys in English and Spanish were available electronically and in hard copy in a variety of formats, including large print and braille. Surveys were also read to individuals who requested assistance. Surveys were posted on the SILC, CIL and other organizational websites, and distributed via multiple email lists, newsletters, flyers with QR codes and during community meetings and outreach events.

The following is a brief summary of our most recent statewide assessment. The final report to be completed with the help of Boise State University will be a more extensive. It will be completed in August 2023.

A total of 658 surveys were submitted by people with disabilities, family members and service providers. Forty percent of respondents disclosed that they are people with disabilities, including 65 family members, 16 service providers and 11 direct care/community support workers. It appears that multiple respondents who didn't disclose having a disability, may be aging into disability (loss of vision, hearing, mobility) based on their responses around healthcare, household maintenance and transportation. Many of these indicated that they are aging parents or other caregivers with concerns about their own health and ability to keep providing support to loved ones.

Nearly 19% of survey respondents were from the ten counties that make up Disability Action Center - NW's (DAC-NW) service area; nearly 52% were from the 16 counties within Living Independence Network Corporation's (LINC) service area; and just over 29% were from LIFE, A Center for Independent Living's (LIFE) 18 county service area. A small number (23) of respondents were from out of state or didn't answer the question. The Idaho Commission for the Blind and Vision Impaired serves all 44 counties of Idaho. Out of 419 people who answered the question (#23), 249 represented or are people under the age of 50.

As typical with most surveys, not all respondents answered all the questions. It speaks to the survey questions that just shy of 70% of people who began the survey completed the questions up to the last three which were demographic. 658 people began the survey and answered through question number 4

- * 634 people responded through question number 9
- * 634 respondents answered through question number 17
- * 455 people responded through question 21
- * 424 people completed the survey demographic questions.

Of the 634 people who responded to question number 5, "what things do you struggle with or need help doing?", nearly 25% indicated that they have trouble with cooking and/or cleaning and near that number indicated that they struggle or need help with budget and money management. Only a quarter of respondents indicated that they had no trouble managing the issues listed. Twelve percent of respondents added comments in the space provided.

Of the 455 people who answered question number 20, "If you could educate (teach) people (businesses, government, family, friends, other people with disabilities) on ONE topic, what would it be?", 261 (57%) people provided insightful, thought provoking, sometimes fun, caring comments representative of the diversity and depth of what people with disabilities bring to the table and what they'd like to know more about. One-hundred and five people shared additional comments about what's working, what's not, what they'd like policy makers, CILs and the community to know around issues that directly impact them.

The SILC and CILs held 32 community meetings in 24 communities, including two statewide virtual meetings and one closed meeting with high school students at the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind across Idaho from April 21 - August 24, 2022. Community meetings were hosted by SILC and CIL staff in a variety of community locations. Notetakers from CILs and the SILC took notes and conducted interviews when appropriate. Note takers recorded the comments and information shared during the meetings. Meetings took place in rural and metro areas from Burley to Salmon, Twin Falls to Boise and Payette to Ponderay. A total of 213 people participated in the community meetings and/or interviews. Beyond our interpreters, no one attended the Spanish language meetings, though we learned a lot based on interviews and conversations in all communities we visited. We continue to work to better understand Spanish speaking communities and how we might better meet them where they are.

As in previous years, housing (including maintenance and modifications), transportation, access to healthcare and mental health care, accessible routes of travel (sidewalks) and reliable home and community-based services (HCBS) remain high in areas of concern. And, as expected, these areas of concern have substantially grown and become more dire in the last three years. We also learned of some promising practices and communities of sharing that we look forward to further exploring and connecting to the needs of the disability community.

Idahoans with disabilities, family members and providers who participated in community meetings and the survey shared with us their needs, hopes, successes, disappointments, fears, skills, potential and much, much more. Given the unanticipated response and amount of qualitative data collected, SILC staff are working with Boise State University to refine the information into a more substantial report. Given the extension of the 2021-23 SPIL, we have time to drill deeper and develop a more meaningful response to address needs through the next SPIL phase.

(B) Monitor, Review and Evaluate the Implementation of the State Plan

Describe any activities related to the monitoring, review and evaluation of the implementation of the state plan.

The Planning Committee, Executive Committee and SILC staff continue to improve the quarterly online survey to increase participation and ease quarterly reporting for Council members and Part B subrecipients. The planning committee strives to develop and improve questions best suited to match the SPIL and provide meaningful information to the Council during quarterly meetings. Surveys are sent out during the first week each new quarter. The SPIL is reviewed and monitored first by the executive director and the planning committee chair. The report is then shared with the executive committee for input, suggestions and review and finally reported out during SILC Quarterly Business Meetings. Goals and objectives are reviewed for activity updates and review of success/barriers by the germane committees during the quarterly committee meetings.

Idaho SILC staff monitor and review the 2021-2023 SPIL monthly, followed by quarterly reviews

conducted by the planning committee; then the full SILC during Council meetings. The SILC meets at least quarterly to review, monitor and potentially revise the SPIL as needs warrant. Expectations met or exceeded within the goals. Some activities are modified based on shifting resources, response to the health emergency and emerging issues, such as the imploding housing crisis and direct care worker shortage across Idaho impacting Idahoans with disabilities and their family's disproportionality.

(C) Coordination With Other Disability Councils

Describe the SILC's coordination of activities with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) established under section 105, if the state has such a Council, or the commission described in section 101(a)(21)(A), if the state has such a commission, and councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues under other Federal law. Please state whether the SILC has at least one representative serving as a member of the SRC and whether the SILC has any members serving on other councils, boards or commissions in the state.

- The SILC Program Specialist serves on the SRC, ensuring representation from the IL community and communication between the SRC and the SILC. A regional DVR manager serves on the SILC to ensure communication and participation with each other. They also participate in Neighbors United, a collaborative of individuals, community leaders, organizations and companies who strengthen refugee resettlement resources locally as well as many behavioral health workgroups.
- The Council chair services on Community NOW!, a project through the Department of Health and Welfare, Medicaid improving Developmental Disabilities waiver services (HCBS).
- The Council vice-chair serves on National Federation of the Blind - Idaho and the Boise Art Museum access committee. Another council member serves on the Saint Alphonsus Deaf and hard of hearing advisory board. Another serves on the Region 5 Behavioral Health Board, Region 5 Children's Mental Health Committee.
- The SILC and the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities frequently serve on many of the same Medicaid waiver workgroups. The two Councils also often partner on statewide projects. The two Councils are interested in member exchanges to learn from each other about needs and how respective Council operate. We're hopeful we can begin the exchange in the next 6-12 months provided the spread of multiple illnesses wains.
- Several Council members are also members of local community groups, including faith based and political organizations. Council members are committed to highlighting the need for meeting space access and disability issues within these forums.
- CIL Directors and several CIL staff serve on a variety of local, regional and state boards and committees to elevate the issues and concerns of the disability community.
- The SILC executive director is a gubernatorially appointed member of the State of Idaho Disaster Medical Advisory Committee, the State Vaccine Advisory Committee, and several other public health and Department of Health and Welfare committees and workgroups, primarily focused on HCBS improvements and the direct care workforce shortage. The SILC executive director serves on the Intermountain Fair Housing Council and several other housing committees and workgroups across the State.

(D) Public Meeting Requirements

Describe how the SILC has ensured that all regularly scheduled meetings and other public hearings

and forums hosted by the SILC are open to the public and sufficient advance notice is provided.

The Idaho SILC held quarterly council meetings, quarterly executive committee meetings (one month prior to Council meetings) and other meetings, such as SPIL development and planning meetings in preparation for the next statewide assessment and resource development meetings as needed. Quarterly meetings are scheduled annually during the summer meeting and posted on our website as soon as dates and locations are confirmed. The Notice of scheduled SILC meetings, including agendas are emailed to stakeholders, Council members and other community groups a minimum of 3 - 5 days in advance of public meetings, though generally two weeks prior at the request of Council members.

Visitors on the SILC website and Facebook page can also view meeting Notices. All meetings and agendas are posted on our website, Facebook page and exterior doorway at least 24 hours in advance of meetings in compliance with Idaho's Public Meetings laws, with a stated goal of providing notice 72 hours in advance when possible. Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings, except executive sessions that address human resource issues. Additionally, all meetings are posted on the state's Townhall website.

The quarterly council meetings are held in-person 3 times a year, and the January meeting is on-line to alleviate travel worries in the wintertime and conserve resources. While we have experimented with ASL and captioning for our public meetings, we've yet to find a solution that works for everyone. Given Idaho's often poor broadband, ASL doesn't always work for some participants. However, captioning also has its limits. This is particularly true for hybrid meetings. We have purchased technology to help us address these concerns and will continue to work with our Council members and constituents from the Deaf community to improve access.

Meeting materials are mailed out to Council members who prefer hard copy documents. Large print materials are sent to Council members who request the larger format. Documents are also provided to participants who aren't Council members in advance on request prior to or after a meeting.

Item 2 - Other Activities

Describe any other SILC activities funded by non-Part B funds.

The SILC uses state general funds to provide our match for Title 7 Part B and support program staffing and Title 1, Innovation and Expansion funds, which helps offset administrative costs.

Additionally, the SILC maintains a small, unrestricted fund in which donations and deposits accumulate and support activities such as extra ASL interpreters for community events (not hosted by the SILC), supplies for youth activities, food purchase for groups meeting for a short period of time, but over the dinner hour, such as an evening SILC orientation, and other activities the Council deems appropriate.

The program specialist position is largely supported through state general funds. These funds fully support 1 FTE Program Specialist who provides emergency preparedness and recovery education and training, technical assistance in opening ABLE accounts in other state programs (Idaho doesn't have an ABLE program) and financial literacy education.

Activities under these two programs are generally funded by state funds only, though there may be some overlap with programs funded under Title 7 Part B funds. State funds may also be used to support publications in languages other than English. These activities, funded by the state provide other avenues for the SILC to take the IL message and resource information to our frontier

The Idaho SILC Executive Director may also use state general funds or unrestricted funds if there is concern about an activity falling within federal grant requirements.

Section 721(b)(3) of the Act

Training And Technical Assistance Needs	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs --- Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
Advocacy/Leadership Development	
General Overview	9
Community/Grassroots Organizing	
Individual Empowerment	
Systems Advocacy	10
Legislative Process	1
Applicable Laws	
General overview and promulgation of various disability laws	
Americans with Disabilities Act	
Air-Carrier's Access Act	
Fair Housing Act	
Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act	
Medicaid/Medicare/PAS/waivers/long-term care	7
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended	
Social Security Act	
Workforce Investment Act of 1998	
Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999	
Government Performance Results Act of 1993	
Assistive Technologies	
General Overview	
Data Collecting and Reporting	
General Overview	
PPR/704 Reports	
Performance Measures contained in PPR/704 Report	3
Dual Reporting Requirements	
Case Service Record Documentation	
Disability Awareness and Information	
Specific Issues	
Evaluation	

Training And Technical Assistance Needs	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs --- Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
<p>General Overview</p> <p>CIL Standards and Indicators</p> <p>Community Needs Assessment</p> <p>Consumer Satisfaction Surveys</p> <p>Focus Groups</p> <p>Outcome Measures</p> <p>Financial: Grant Management</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Federal Regulations</p> <p>Budgeting</p> <p>Fund Accounting</p> <p>Financial: Resource Development</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Diversification of Funding Base</p> <p>Fee-for-Service Approaches</p> <p>For Profit Subsidiaries</p> <p>Fund-Raising Events of Statewide Campaigns</p> <p>Grant Writing</p> <p>Independent Living Philosophy</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Innovative Programs</p> <p>Best Practices</p> <p>Specific Examples</p> <p>Management Information Systems</p> <p>Computer Skills</p> <p>Software</p> <p>Marketing and Public Relations</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Presentation/Workshop Skills</p> <p>Community Awareness</p> <p>Networking Strategies</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Electronic</p> <p>Among CILs & SILCs</p> <p>Community Partners</p> <p>Program Planning</p> <p>General Overview of Program Management and Staff Development</p> <p>CIL Executive Directorship Skills Building</p> <p>Conflict Management and Alternative Dispute Resolution</p> <p>First-Line CIL Supervisor Skills Building</p> <p>IL Skills Modules</p> <p>Peer Mentoring</p> <p>Program Design</p>	<p>8</p>

Training And Technical Assistance Needs	Choose up to 10 Priority Needs --- Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important
<p>Time Management</p> <p>Team Building</p> <p>Outreach to Unserved/Underserved Populations</p> <p>General Overview 4</p> <p>Disability</p> <p>Minority 5</p> <p>Institutionalized Potential Consumers</p> <p>Rural 6</p> <p>Urban</p> <p>SILC Roles/Relationship to CILs</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Development of State Plan for Independent Living 2</p> <p>Implementation (monitor & review) of SPIL</p> <p>Public Meetings</p> <p>Role and Responsibilities of Executive Board</p> <p>Role and Responsibilities of General Members</p> <p>Collaborations with In-State Stakeholders</p> <p>CIL Board of Directors</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>Policy Development</p> <p>Recruiting/Increasing Involvement</p> <p>Volunteer Programs</p> <p>General Overview</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Optional Areas and/or Comments (write-in)</p> <p>N/A</p>	

SUBPART VI - SPIL COMPARISON AND UPDATES, OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF THE REPORTING YEAR

Section 704(m)(4) of the Act; 34 CFR 76.140

Section A - Comparison of Reporting Year Activities with the SPIL

Item 1 - Progress in Achieving Objectives and Goals

Describe progress made in achieving the objectives and goals outlined in the most recently approved SPIL. Discuss goals achieved and/or in progress as well as barriers encountered.

Describe progress made in achieving the objectives and goals outlined in the most recently approved SPIL. Discuss goals achieved and/or in progress as well as barriers encountered.

Goal 1: The Idaho IL Network will promote and advocate for the integration, inclusion and equity of all Idahoans with disabilities across communities, lifespan and cultures.

Objective 1.1: State and local emergency officials include individuals with disabilities and address their unique needs in emergency planning: mitigation, preparation, response and recovery.

Objective 1.2: The IL Network will represent the voice of individuals with disabilities in improving the availability of housing, transportation, health care and community access.

Objective 1.3: The Idaho SILC, the Network of Centers, ICBVI, and the DSE will promote financial independence, including ABLE and other savings programs, and health care options, including the Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities program, by providing information and education to Idahoans with disabilities, service providers and community organizations.

Notes:

Objective 1.1 - It is increasingly difficult to get people with disabilities to local emergency planning group meetings and exercises due to a lack of community support workers for ADLs and community activities. Benchmarks were achieved due to the availability of statewide virtual meetings. However, it is worth noting that in person works better for many people with disabilities and others do not have access to technology to participate.

Objective 1.3 - The benchmarks for this objective are primarily driven by SILC staff activities. CILs and ICBVI complete this work generally driven by one-on-one work with individuals.

Objectives 1.1-1.3: Benchmarks Achieved

Goal 2: The Idaho IL Network will work to strengthen effective Network operations that are adequately funded and increase capacity.

Objective 2.1 - Years 1 and 2: Address Subchapter Part C funding inequities, Years 1 and 2

Note: Objective 2.2 Years 1-3 are complete and now dependent on Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Objective 2.2 - Year 3: Address Subchapter Part C funding inequities

Note: Objective 2.2 Years 1-3 are complete and now dependent on Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Objective 2.3: The three Idaho Centers: Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC), Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE and Disability Action Center-Northwest (DAC-NW) and the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI) will collaborate and work to identify other resource development options to enhance providing independent living services to the citizens of Idaho. On-going.

Benchmarks Achieved

Goal 3: Idahoans with disabilities receive the community-based supports they need to live in their community of choice with greater independence.

Objective 3.1: Provide Independent Living services to people with disabilities to increase community access in rural areas and/or unserved and underserved populations identified in section 3.2 of the 2021-23 SPIL.

Objective 3.2: The Idaho SILC, Network of Centers and ICBVI will expand cultural competence by participating in events, listening and learning about community specific concerns/issues, to/with unserved/underserved populations. See Section 3.2 of the 2021-23 SPIL definitions.

Objective 3.3: Increase demonstrable community connections by the number of, and participation in, community cross disability peer to peer mentoring and learning groups.

Benchmarks achieved through revised survey process recommended by the planning committee, and Part B partners.

Item 2 - SPIL Information Updates

If applicable, describe any changes to the information contained in the SPIL that occurred during the reporting year, including the placement, legal status, membership or autonomy of the SILC; the SILC resource plan, the design of the statewide network of centers; and the DSU administration of the SILS program.

SILC Resource Plan updates for FY2023: The Governor's office and state legislature increased wages for state employees beginning July 1, 2022. The increase was beyond the ability of the SILC to cover. The administrator of DVR, our DSE and the SILC executive director negotiated an increase in Innovation and Expansion funds beginning October 1, 2022 to cover the increased budgetary expense. There is an understanding that if Idaho DVR were to go into order of selection, the increase would cease and call all I&E funds into question. Order of Selection is not an imminent threat at this time. The governor's office has determined that it will complete the evaluation of the SILC ED, thus removing the autonomy of the Council to do so as directed by federal and state law.

Section B - Significant Activities and Accomplishments

If applicable, describe any significant activities and accomplishments achieved by the DSU and SILC

not included elsewhere in the report, e.g. brief summaries of innovative practices, improved service delivery to consumers, etc.

The DSE and the SILC continue to work together to find innovative ways to reach our most underserved areas. We consider opportunities to aid in contracts between the DSE and the CILs as they are presented. We're generally well informed of the other's efforts and how we may assist each other in our common goals of independent living for Idahoans with disabilities. We often consult each other as issues arise, addressing our concerns with other disability service organizations, as well as with state and congressional policy makers.

The Idaho SILC E.D. meets at least quarterly with the Director of Cabinet Affairs in the Office of the Governor.

Section C - Substantial Challenges

If applicable, describe any substantial problems encountered by the DSU and SILC, not included elsewhere in this report, and discuss resolutions/attempted resolutions, e.g., difficulty in outreach efforts; disagreements between the SILC and the DSU; complications recruiting SILC members; complications working with other state agencies or organizations within the state.

Given the increased need for education, outreach and services across our state, the lack of mandated and designated funding for the SILC is a growing concern. The CILs and ICBVI do not have enough Part B funding to support Part C and Older Blind programs. While the Council and the planning team have granted the SILC 30% of part B funding annually as allowed by the Act, these funds could be used to increase direct services and support to Idahoans across disabilities and lifespan. We recognize that Part C, B and Older Blind funding is not enough to serve our communities. Without increased funding for IL services and CIL operations and dedicated funding to support the SILC's outreach, education and advocacy operations, it is hard to see how we can improve outcomes in underserved communities, especially in a state with a population growth of 1.8% in the last two years, including at least two metro areas with growth over 15%. I'm hopeful that these funding concerns will be addressed in the next reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act. Until then, we will strive reach and teach independent living to people with disabilities and the communities they enrich. As it is our nature to find a way.

Section D - Additional Information

Include any additional information, suggestions, comments or explanations not included elsewhere in the report.

Corrective Action Plan (CAP) regarding subpart 5 to ensure Idaho SILC composition meets statutory requirements; that the Council shall be composed of members that a majority of whom are persons who are not employed by any state agency or center for independent living.

- At the time of submission of the 2022 PPR, we were awaiting gubernatorial of for an at-large position reserved for a person from an underserved community. This individual was appointed on January 24, 2023. She is a person with a disability from a tribal community in Region 2. This brings our total of

people with disabilities not employed by a CIL or the state to six (6) of 14 total members (including 4 ex-officio members).

- Two more people with disabilities are awaiting gubernatorial appointment following their selection by the Council at our January meeting. Their applications for appointment were submitted on February 2, 2023. If approved, this will bring the total number of people with disabilities not employed by a CIL or the state to 8 out of 16 total members (including 4 ex-officio members).
- The Council membership committee has interviewed and plans to recommend another person with a disability for a vote of the full Council at our next quarterly meeting in April. If approved and appointed, this will bring the Idaho SILC into compliance with the number of people with disabilities not employed by the state or a CIL to 9 of 17 total members (including 4 ex-officio members).
- The Council has openings for three more at-large positions to include young adults, veterans and people from underserved communities as defined in the SPIL. The Council is working to recruit people with disabilities to fill these seats to help ensure continued compliance.

As stated in Subpart V, section B Item 1:

Our appointment process in cooperation with the Governor's office has become more difficult and slow due to required and increasingly in-depth criminal background checks. We've appealed a recent denial of appointment twice to no avail, though the issue occurred many years ago and was in fact withheld. This is particularly frustrating as the person who was denied appointment is active in the disability community, well known and highly knowledgeable. Given that people with disabilities, particularly from communities of color disproportionately encounter law enforcement, the background checks have become an obstacle to ensuring that we can maintain our statutory composition. The delays and denials for appointments are hitting especially hard this year as five long-term council members termed off in late May 2022. Given the difficulty, we've begun telling people that an in-depth background check is conducted and if they anticipate anything coming up, we'd appreciate knowing in advance so we can support them through the process. We do not discourage people from applying. However, some have opted out once learning of the process involved.

and Subpart V, section B Item 2:

Above indicates nine voting members, five of whom are people with disabilities who do not work for a CIL or the state. The last three years have taken a toll on membership as several members resigned their appointments for personal reasons and five others termed off in May 2022. The Council may also elect to add other at-large seats to ensure cross disability representation and majority. Specific at-large seats are not added into our by-laws. The Council values the input of new members, especially young adults and those from communities otherwise not well represented.

SUBPART VII - SIGNATURES

Please sign and print the names, titles and telephone numbers of the DSU directors(s) and SILC chairperson.

SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON	DATE
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NAME AND TITLE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON	PHONE NUMBER
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SIGNATURE OF DSU DIRECTOR	DATE
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NAME AND TITLE OF DSU DIRECTOR	PHONE NUMBER
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